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Brook Advocate

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Balance is the key to
dance, as it is to life.
Tap. Tap. Tap. Listen to
what the dance is saying,
to what life is
saying.
~Anonymous

VPA Swings into Action

After weeks of planning, the Visual and Performing Arts School presented an interdisciplinary unit covering the Swing Era (1930s and 1940s), when jazz became America's mainstream popular music.

To create the swinging atmosphere, silhouettes of swing dancers and musical staffs and notes adorned the VPA walls, thanks to the hard work of the art department.

Science students studied scientific discoveries from

the time period.

The English department focused on poetry. Mr. Mooney even helped his students put some poetry to music by bringing in a piano and asking them to help come up with the tempo and mood.

The VPA History students engaged in historical research for prominent happenings during the two decades in study.

The Math department solved word problems utilizing swingin' terms.



Dancing to the Swing



C. Ripstein dressed for Swing

"Swing" at the Hobby Center

Students from the School of Visual and Performing Arts enjoyed a matinee performance of the hit Broadway Musical

for the Performing Arts produced by Theatre Under The Stars. In a celebration of the music and dance phenomenon that swept the nation in the 30's and 40's, swing dancing has returned to become one of today's fastest growing trends. Swing crosses ethnic and cultural barriers, highlighting an eclectic mix of Jive, Latin Swing, West Coast Swing, Hip-Hop Swing and Country and Western Swing. Dances were performed to classic swing tunes such as "It Don't Mean A Thing (If it



Ain't Got That Swing)" and "Stompin at the Savoy". At the break we caught two CBHS students trying their dance skills. Comments indicate VPA students loved the show and are interested in many more activities of this nature.



Having a Swingin' Time in the Gym

The Visual and Performing Arts students and teachers filed into the gymnasium for a massive celebration of the Swing Era. Mrs. Donna Taylor, the VPA Team Leader, acted as master of ceremonies.

Ahsia Taylor and Cidney Burrows performed incredible interpretations of Langston Hughes poems.

The Jazz band performed tunes of the era such as, Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B. Choir director, Jon Marcum led harmonious voices in renditions of Swing songs.

Celebrities strutted their stuff to the likes of the jitterbug and jive to a rockin' audience.

Students were exceptionally well behaved as they enjoyed a special event.



A Walk in the Park



VPA students have fun in the park after their excursion to Swing.

After traveling downtown Houston to see an eye-popping display of dance at the Hobby Center, VPA students took brown-bag lunches to Frankie Carter Park for a picnic.

Students ate their lunches under the trees and in the fresh air. Which, by the way, was a welcomed change from the long trip from downtown in the bus. Students walked around the perimeter of the park, talking and laughing. Others played volleyball or sat in groups on the picnic tables. It was a relaxing ending to a day of fun in VPA.

VPA students take a walk in the park after their viewing of Swing.



Registration Collaboration



Above: Ms. Warfield serves apple juice to students Below: These three girls get to talking about courses and what the rest of High School Academic Life is like



With the approach of registration two creative teachers from the School of Medical and Health Sciences decided to have their students collaborate on information about registration. Mrs. Warfield's freshman advisory met with Mrs. Hudson's junior advisory in the commons. The two advisory teachers served donuts, fruits, juices, and milk to the students as they discussed

the idiosyncrasies of academic life at Clear Brook. Word on the street is that the students all appreciated having the time to ask questions of one another. We

hope this small beginning helps other teachers and students to think of creative ways to collaborate for the betterment of the everyone.



Former Student Talks about Medical Life

On February 22, 2007, juniors and seniors in the Medical and Health Science advisories filed into the auditorium in order to learn about a life in medicine from a former Brook student, Ajay Sheshadri. Ajay graduated from Brook in 1999, from Rice in 2003, and is graduating

this year from Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. Ajay related how he floated about until a class inspired him to follow the path of medicine. Although he admits that it is an often difficult path to pursue, it is also very fulfilling.



VPA Advisories Compose Love Poems



Middle: The winners from Mrs. Motes's advisory: Poole, Salcich, and Snow.

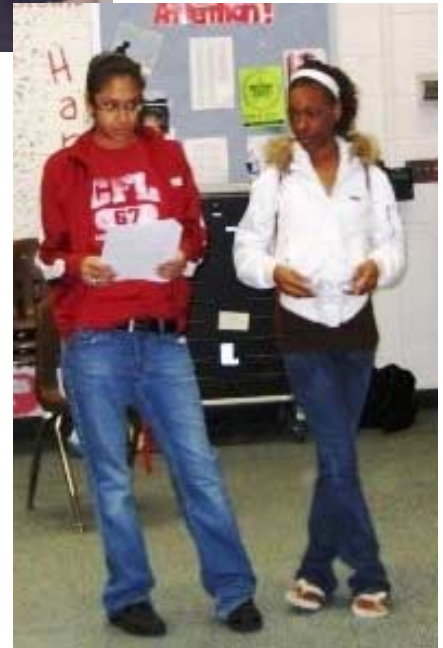
Sides: Other Visual and Performing Arts Students participate in the Valentine's Poetry contest by composing and reading their poems in Mrs. Taylor's room.



Mrs. Donna Taylor, VPA, Team Leader sent out the call to all VPA Advisory teachers to have their students compose Valentines Day poems. Students were encouraged to go to room 511 to participate in a Poetry Contest.

A panel of judges determined the best poem was from Mrs. Mote's advisory. The fabulous poem was performed by M. Poole, A. Salcich and C. Snow. The guys won donuts for their advisory! Keep up the great work!

Mr. Mooney's awesome advisory came in second. It is the hope of the VPA staff that more students will choose to become involved in fun activities such as this.



Random Spotlight



Laura Hess is a new Algebra I teacher who graduated from Houston Baptist University.

A life-long resident of Texas, her hobbies include going out with friends, reading books, watching movies and being with her family.



Gabriela Rangel, an Algebra I teacher, graduate of University of Texas at Brownsville, has resided in Mexico as well as Texas.

She has had experience as a mentor, tutor, computer lab assistant, and orientation leader, and in her spare time, she enjoys computers, cartoons, and listening to music.



James Kowalewski is teaching World History his first year here, at Brook. He graduated from Austin College with a Bachelor of Arts in History and is currently working on his Master of Arts in Teaching.

This Texas and Japan resident has been a graduate assistant football coach at Austin College and his hobbies include sports and video games.